GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1038
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FAILURE OF METAL DETECTORS
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during a routine review of the security set up at airports recently, none of the door frame metal detectors installed at various airports was found functioning properly;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry was conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(d) the details of airports covered under security check up during October, 2003?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (d): The security Enforcement Committee during itsinspection found that while the Door Frame Metal Detectors(DFMDs) installed by Airports Authority of India at various airports are functional to the extent that they can detect objectionable objects weighing 30 gms. and above. However, the detection pattern of the DFMDis varying irrespective of the weight, depending on the shape/size of an object, its positioning on the body of a passenger and the speed with which he/she walks though the DFMD.

A Committee was constituted to verify from other International Airports if similar variation in detection pattern of DFMDsis experienced. It is found from the experience in Kualalumpur International Airport that the DFMD`sdetection capability is varying and that it needs to be supplemented by Hand Held Metal Detectors (HHMDs) to strengthen security measures.

All airports are inspected by officers of BCAS from time to time as per annual schedules drawn based on the threat perception.